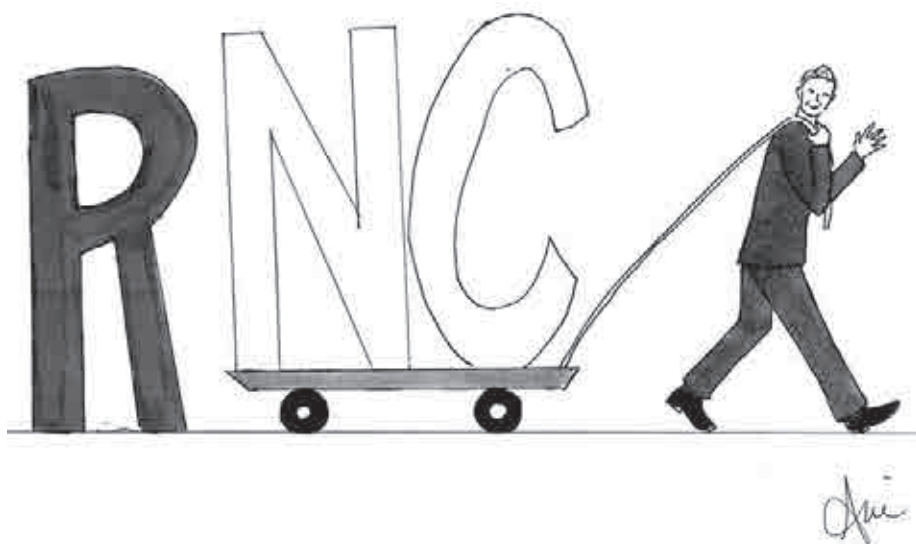


.IN*

FREE
LIKE WE ALL
SHOULD BE



A COLLECTIVE
VIEW OF
MODERN SOCIETY

.IN*

WHEW! A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE OUR APRIL ISSUE. COVID-19 HAD JUST IMPACTED OUR LIVES IN A BIG WAY, AND IT IS NOW GROWING OUT OF CONTROL JUST AS PEOPLE ARE GETTING TIRED OF STAYING AT HOME. WEARING A FACEMASK HAS BECOME A DIVISIVE ISSUE. WE'VE HAD PROTESTS IN EVERY MAJOR CITY FOR ABOUT A MONTH NOW. PEOPLE ARE FINALLY BECOMING AWARE OF RACIAL INJUSTICES. HOPEFULLY REAL, PERMANENT CHANGE WILL BE A RESULT OF THAT.

AND, AS PICTURED IN ANI TODD'S BRILLIANT COVER ART, THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION (PRETTY MUCH) WON'T BE HELD IN CHARLOTTE AFTER ALL. I HAD PLANNED ON MAKING THIS ISSUE A "WELCOME RNC" ISSUE. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A LOT OF FUN. BUT I'M ALSO RELIEVED THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO LIVE THROUGH THAT FIASCO. I'M GLAD THAT THE GOVERNOR AND MAYOR DID THE RIGHT THING.

AND, FINALLY, A MAJORITY OF PEOPLE ARE FED UP WITH THE CLOWN IN THE WHITE HOUSE. I THINK THAT'S THE THEME OF 2020: WE'RE TIRED. WE'RE TIRED OF BEING HELD CAPTIVE BY COVID-19. WE'RE TIRED OF IT KILLING OUR ELDERLY AND INFIRM. WE'RE TIRED OF THE LOSS OF INCOME THAT WE'VE SUFFERED. WE'RE TIRED OF POLICE KILLING BLACKS. WE'RE TIRED OF RACISM AND HATRED. WE'RE TIRED OF THE BUFFOON IN OFFICE NOT DOING ANYTHING TO HELP ANYONE BUT HIMSELF.

BUT EXHAUSTION AND FRUSTRATION CAN LEAD TO CHANGE. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS RISE UP AND DO THE RIGHT THING AND NOT STAND IDLY BY. WE HAVE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. WE HAVE HOPE FOR NOVEMBER AND 2021. HOPEFULLY, WE CAN CREATE A NEW RENAISSANCE WHICH WILL MAKE LIFE MORE EQUITABLE FOR EVERYONE.

SO, WEAR YOUR MASK OUT OF CARE AND COMPASSION FOR OTHERS AND PROTEST AND VOTE!



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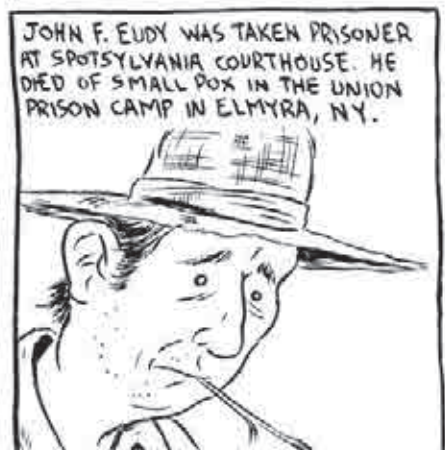
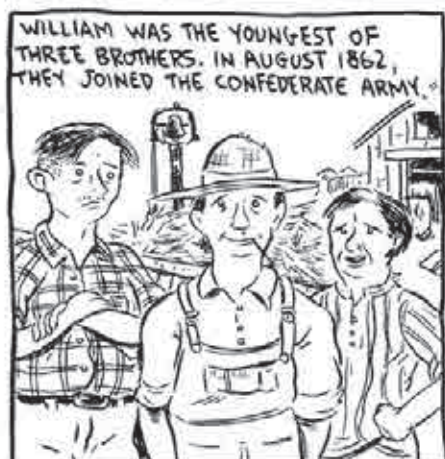
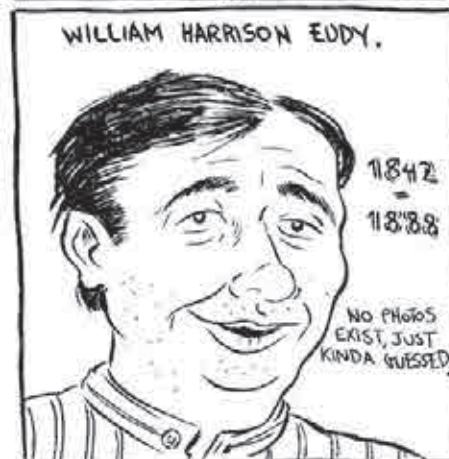
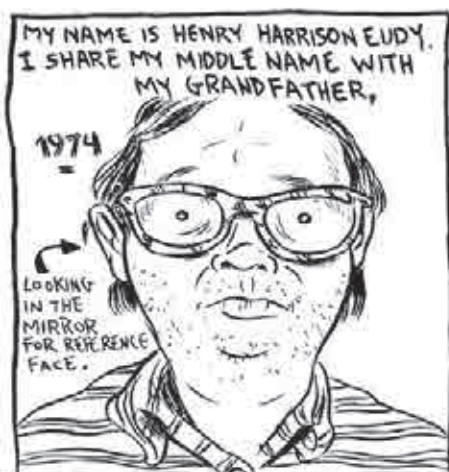


BOTH PINKY'S LOCATIONS ARE OPEN WITH THE STANDARD PANDEMIC SAFETY PRECAUTIONS. BE CONSIDERATE, AND TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

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The Confederacy and Me

by Henry Eudy



ONLY WILLIAM HARRISON WOULD
RETURN HOME TO NORTH CAROLINA.
AND TODAY, I AM AND I SHARE
HIS NAME.



WHEN SOME INSIST THAT THE CONFED-
ERATE FLAG IS ABOUT HERITAGE, NOT
HATE, THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT SOME-
ONE LIKE ME.



BUT I REJECT AND REPUDIATE
THAT CLAIM.



IT'S FASCINATING TO KNOW SOME-
THING OF THE PEOPLE WHO CAME
BEFORE. ESPECIALLY WHEN THEIR
LIVES TOUCHED ON HISTORY.



BUT THE FACT IS, MY ANCESTORS
TOOK PART IN A TREASONOUS WAR
AGAINST THE UNITED STATES AND
ULTIMATELY WERE FIGHTING TO KEEP
OTHER HUMAN BEINGS AS PROPERTY.



THERE CAN BE NO PRIDE IN
THAT HERITAGE.



Red Wedding



by Charlotte Zinger

Shadows lurking
voices calling

written by Randy Crawford
art by Jerry Kirk

Killer in the streets
singers in the bar

Dangerous city
people are wary

Downtown overflows
with revelers
but they dont' see
what lurks in the
shadows



Tradition

(Sung to the tune of the song from "Fiddler on the Roof")

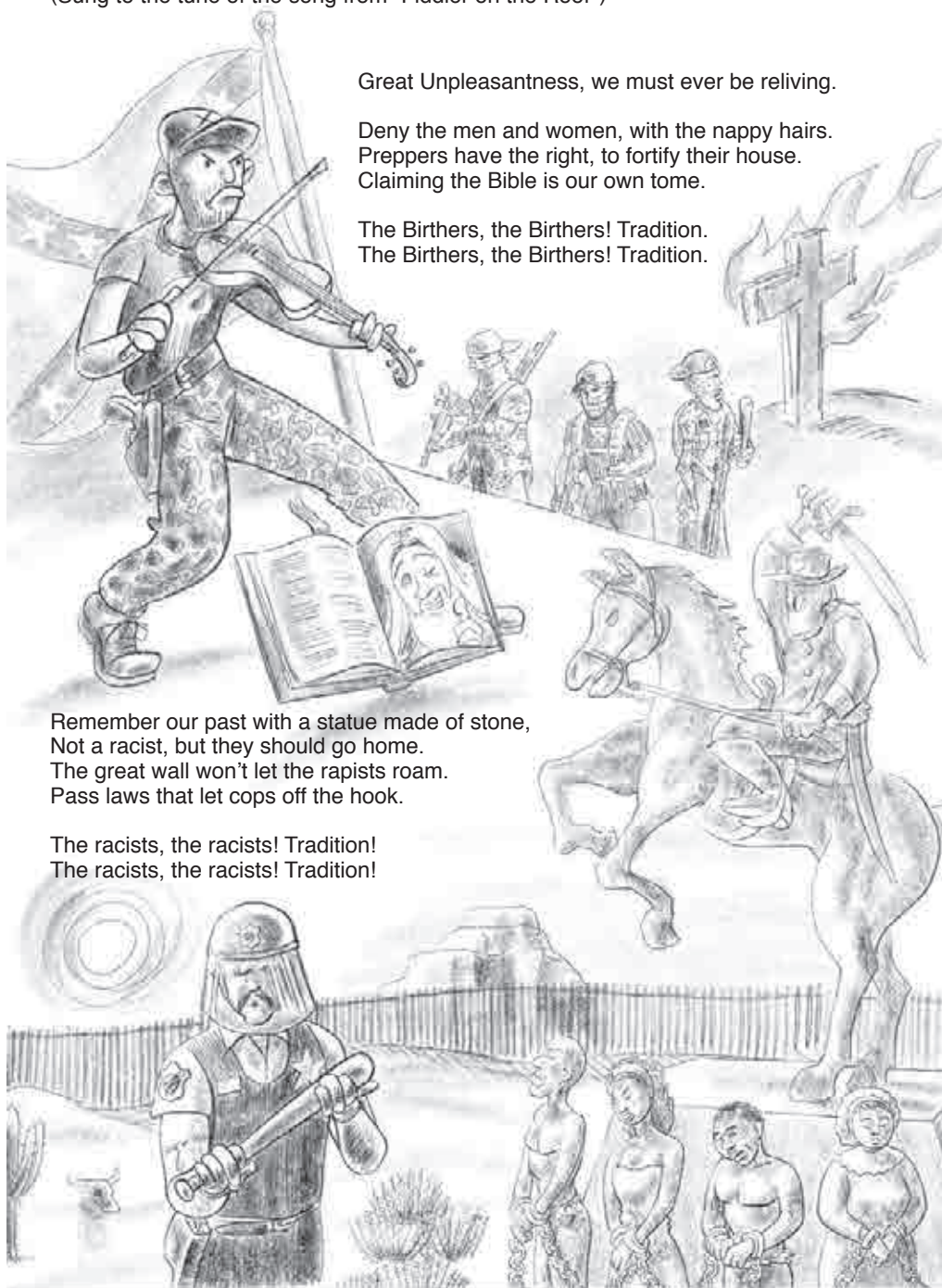
Great Unpleasantness, we must ever be reliving.

Deny the men and women, with the nappy hairs.
Preppers have the right, to fortify their house.
Claiming the Bible is our own tome.

The Birthers, the Birthers! Tradition.
The Birthers, the Birthers! Tradition.

Remember our past with a statue made of stone,
Not a racist, but they should go home.
The great wall won't let the rapists roam.
Pass laws that let cops off the hook.

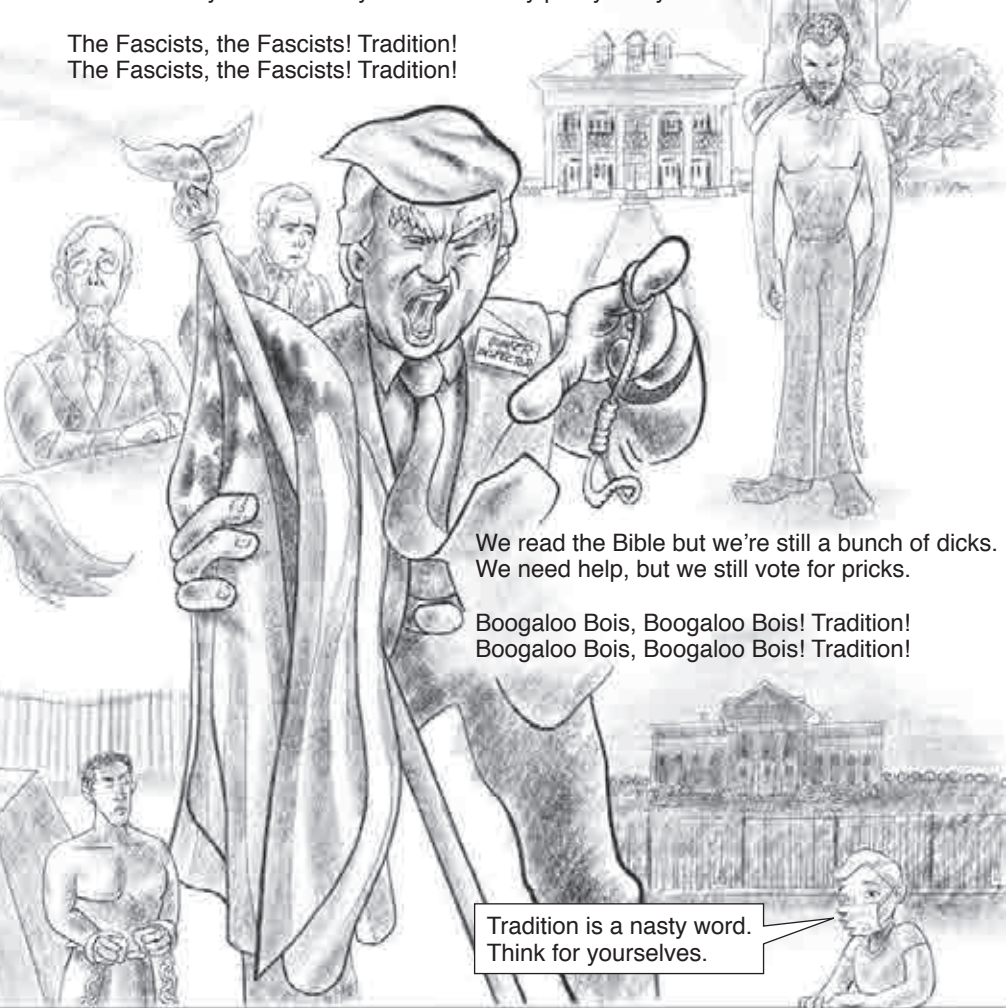
The racists, the racists! Tradition!
The racists, the racists! Tradition!





My family all flunked out of school. So we learned a trade.
I work with my hands not my head. It's really pretty shitty.

The Fascists, the Fascists! Tradition!
The Fascists, the Fascists! Tradition!



We read the Bible but we're still a bunch of dicks.
We need help, but we still vote for pricks.

Boogaloo Bois, Boogaloo Bois! Tradition!
Boogaloo Bois, Boogaloo Bois! Tradition!

Tradition is a nasty word.
Think for yourselves.

I CAN'T STAND THEM!
THEY'RE CLUELESS RUBES!
RUDE+SELFISH JERKS!
BLAME THEM!
SHAME THEM!
THEY ARE THE
**MASSK
HOLES!**

JANUARY 2010 JUNE 2010



THE MAGA*LITH!



Cartoons by *Karla Holland*



@thegorgontransplant



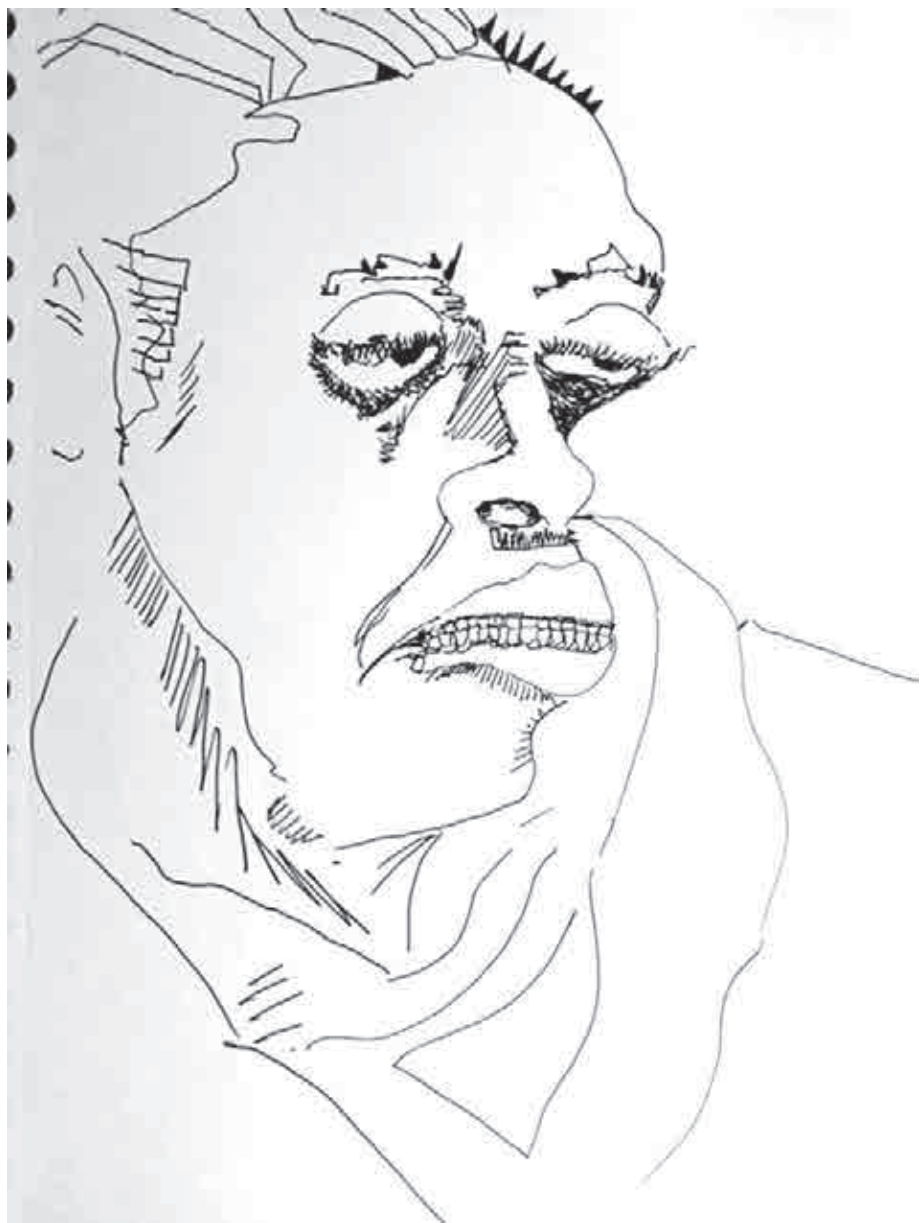
Nu Star Coffee by Mike Greeley



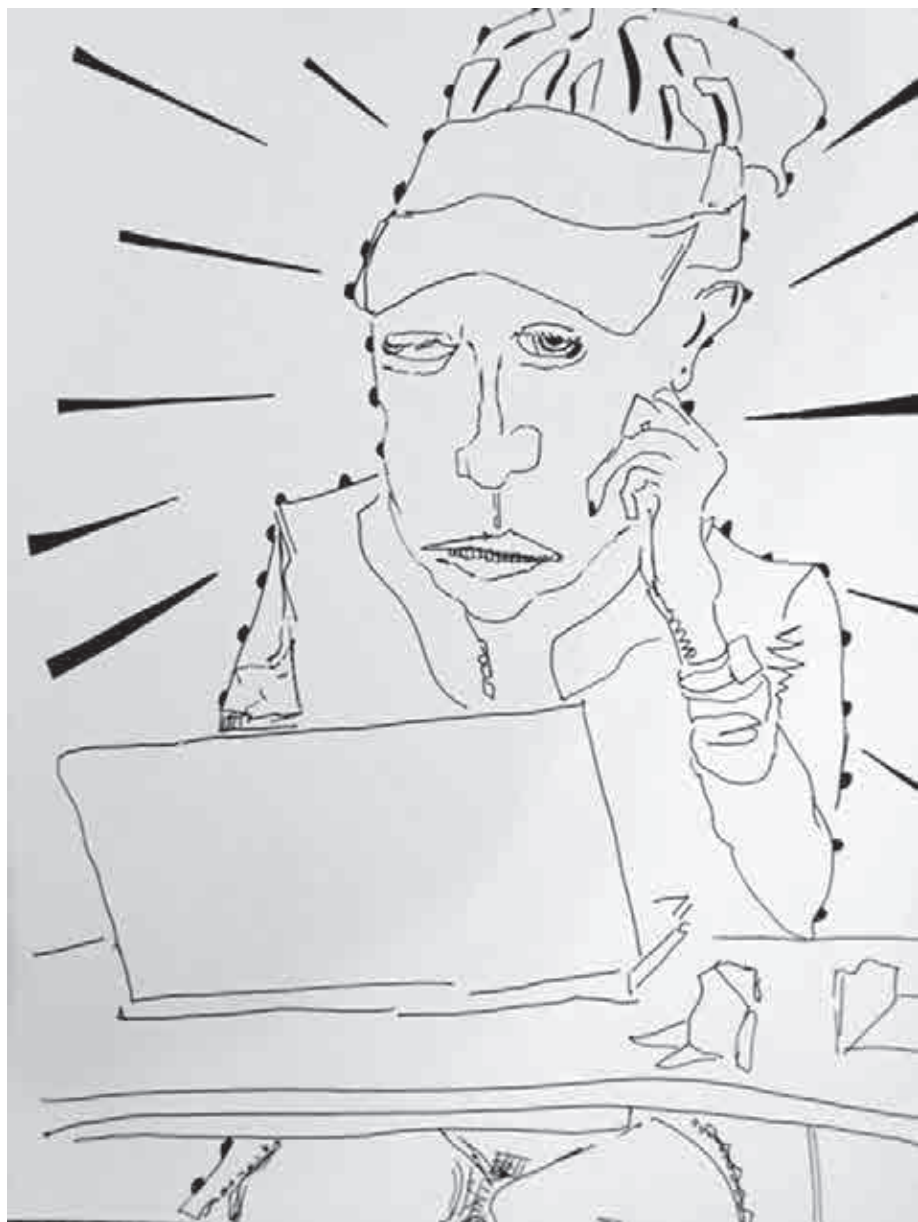
Oh my gosh this coffee is so strong. I can't even keep my jaw still — like I just smoked crack. And I would know!



Just another day reading my paper at Nu Star Coffee. That Trump is such a jerk — too bad the news is totally fabricated by Ashkenazi Jews who will someday rule over us after hording the masses into Walmart FEMA Camps and paying the surviving humans \$15/hour to work at the remaining industrial power conglomerates, namely Amazon, Target and Home Depot like slaves! I'm so smart! What's this? Coronavirus?



Bruh, I got so wasted last night I can hardly stand. Give me the caffeine before I take out this Smith & Wesson in my waistband and destroy all these people like a MK Ultra robot at a Walmart. In other news, that chick over there is pretty thick. I'm gonna keep lookin' at her til she look back.



ugh, I hate it when people stare at me like my vagina is hanging out of my butt shorts — I know I'm hot, and no, you are not good enough for me. I cannot control my eyes from rolling into the back of my skull with utter contempt for uglier humans like the soulless, shape-shifting reptiles featured on the Kardashian, Eye-In-the Pyramid, TV module. Say, that barista is CUTE!



Wow, this girl is staring at me heavy. Does she know I'm on Oxycontin and that I had a vagina four weeks ago? Does it matter? Welcome to the New World Order baby!

WEARING A MASK IN PUBLIC MINIMIZES
YOUR RISK OF BEING EXPOSED TO
THE CORONAVIRUS.



HOWEVER...



IF YOU FORGET TO BRUSH YOUR TEETH, YOUR MASK
CAN'T PROTECT YOU FROM YOUR OWN DEATH BREATH.

ACK! I'M NEVER DRINKING
COFFEE AGAIN!



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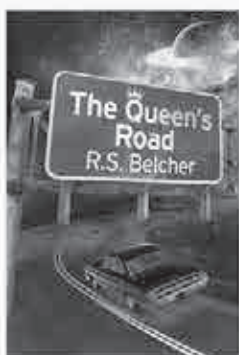




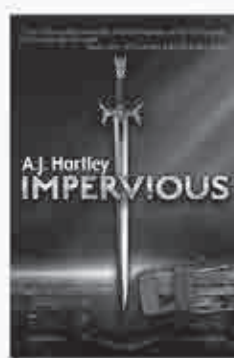
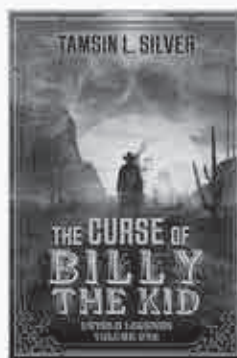
(I ate the paste as a child)



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FIND YOUR NEW FAVORITE BOOK TODAY!

I Feel Your Pain

(for George Floyd)

by Harriet Russell

I know that you are outside of me physically,
But, inside, my divine self knows your divine self.

We are the same.

We share the same blood, and our heartbeats rhythm each other.
When I hurt, you hurt, and your pain becomes the essence of the same
sensation that I feel when I walk through the same fire.

I am here for you,
To stand shoulder to shoulder
So that I can fight with you to the end of your pain,
To end your suffering.

When you suffer, I suffer.
With each gasp of air you struggle to take,
And as oxygen leaves your body,
and you become lifeless,
My lungs deflate in pain.

And at that moment,
your pain is the only pain that I feel in this world.
There is nothing that can be compared to it,
So

I struggle let go of all I think I know
All of the justifiable reasons for this undeserved pain.

And
I cry for you. I cry with all who cry for you
Because

At this moment, I know, I feel that I am connected to you
That we are one, and your pain is my pain.



art by Greg Russell



by Margaret Slate

THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN SAID TO ME IN THE WORKPLACE

(as a direct result of me being visibly transgender
or in response to me being visibly transgender)

recorded and illustrated by SARAH ALLEN REED



--Warehouse manager, in regards to me saying "fuck" in a warehouse in Warrenton, MO while driving my lift jack past another employee. Someone had written "faggot" on my locker less than a week prior. Racial slurs were engraved on the wall in the bathroom. I was denied my case-picking bonus four weeks later.



--Front of house manager during a stage (restaurant industry term for a working interview) at a resort in Kennebunkport, ME, in response to me asking that she use the correct pronouns. She was drunk and tried to grab my ass. I did not go back to accept the position offered to me.



--Tattoo artist in Loveland, CO, during the process of interviewing me for an apprenticeship.

I was offered the apprenticeship on the basis of my comic art and illustration portfolio alone, but this line was repeated multiple times over the course of a thirty minute rambling "interview" in which I was misgendered repeatedly as he chainsmoked on the front stoop. I have not attempted to gain an apprenticeship at any other tattoo shop since, and probably will not again for a long time.



--Head chef at a restaurant in Peekskill, NY.

This was asked during the job interview. I had not disclosed that I was transgender. I walked out four days later.



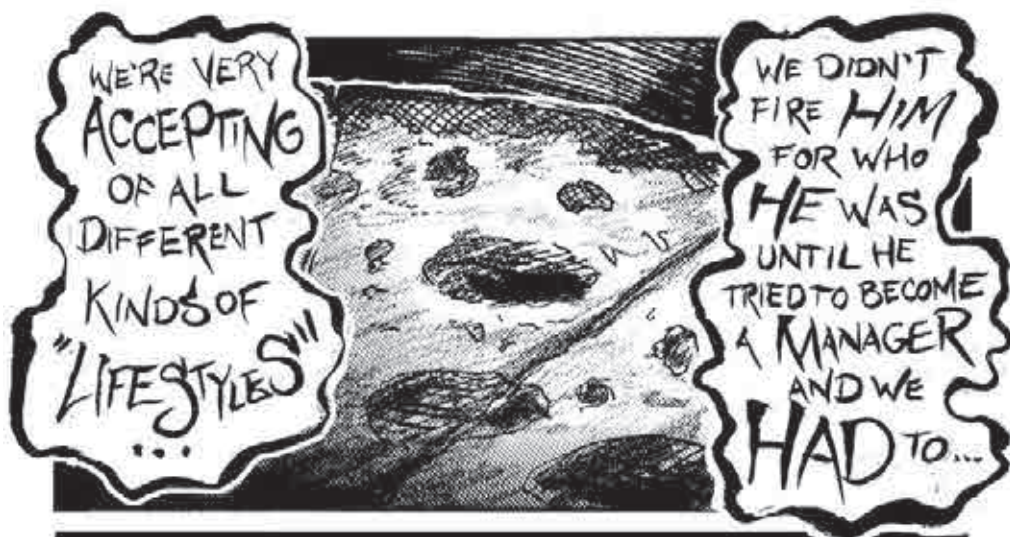
--Night shift manager at a barbecue place in Loveland, CO,
in regards to me asking her why she did not want to discipline
another employee for saying "n****r" in an open kitchen.
I was let go two weeks later with no notice and no write-ups.



--Husband of an employee at a bakery in Loveland, CO.
I had upset the employee by making the remark
"I know none of you respect me, you can't even get my pronouns right".
I had been called an "it" not even a week before while on the clock.
She became mortified that I thought she did not respect me,
started crying, and called her husband,
who showed up drunk at one in the morning,
walked in the unlocked front door,
and threatened to beat me to a pulp.
I had no weapons on me at the time,
I had no ride home save my feet and a skateboard,
and my apartment was roughly a mile away.
I quit the next day.



--Assistant manager at an in-store coffee shop in Loveland, CO.
 This was said to me on my first day,
 after I declined to answer invasive questions about my transition.
 I was later pushed out of the position due to "customer complaints".



--General manager at a Pizza Hut in Saint Louis, MO,
 in an attempt to try and make me feel "welcome" in the workplace.
 The "him" in question was a convicted sex offender and pedophile,
 which according to the general manager
 was the same thing as being transgender.
 He was let go because he could not pass a background check
 due to being on the registry.
 I walked out.

Emily Allen Rios

.IN* ISSUE #7 CONTRIBUTORS



P. 4 THE CONFEDERACY AND ME

HENRY EUDY WRITER/ARTIST

ACCORDING TO HIS INSTAGRAM PROFILE, EUDY IS A WIZARD. A TRUE STAR. YOU CAN FIND SAID INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT AT HENRY_EUDY.



P. 6 RED WEDDING

CHARLOTTE ZINGER WRITER/ARTIST

ZINGER IS THE PRODUCT OF ROMANTIC INTERCOURSE BETWEEN TWO CONSENTING AND MARRIED HOMO SAPIEN ADULTS. SHE REQUIRES OXYGEN, AS WELL AS WATER, CALORIC INTAKE AND VARIOUS DRUGS TO FUNCTION. ZINGER IS A FEMALE BIOLOGICALLY HUMAN ENTITY AND UTILIZES HER WAKING TIME TO EXECUTE A PLETHORA OF ARTISTIC ENDEAVORS.



P. 7 IN THE SHADOWS

RANDY CRAWFORD WRITER

ORIGINALLY FROM MERIDIAN, MS, CRAWFORD HAS LIVED IN CHARLOTTE SINCE 1993. HE ENJOYS WRITING AND DOING CONCEPTUAL ART.



JERRY KIRK ARTIST

KIRK IS AN AWARD-WINNING ARTIST WHOSE WORK IS IN PRIVATE COLLECTIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. HE IS ALSO ONE OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE HISTORIC N. DAVIDSON ST. ART DISTRICT KNOWN AS "NODA." VISIT HIS OFFICIAL SITE AT WWW.JERRYKIRK.COM



P. 8 TRADITION

GREG RUSSELL WRITER/ARTIST

RUSSELL IS A TRUE CHARLATAN, BORN AND RAISED IN CHARLOTTE. HE IS A GRAPHIC DESIGNER, ILLUSTRATOR, PHOTOGRAPHER, WEB DESIGNER, WRITER AND EDITOR, BUT HIS FAVORITE THING TO DO IS DRAW COMICS. SEE EXAMPLES OF HIS WORK AT GREGRUSSELL.US



P. 10 MASSKHOLES

TODD ZIMMER WRITER/ARTIST

ZIMMER LIVES IN GREENSBORO NC WITH HIS WIFE, SON AND CAT. HE IS A GRAPHIC DESIGNER, ILLUSTRATOR AND DJ. SEE MORE AT TODDZIMMER.ORG AND INSTAGRAM: [THE_REAL_TODD_ZIMMER](https://www.instagram.com/the_real_todd_zimmer).



P. 12 RELEASE THE KARENS

KARLA HOLLAND WRITER/ARTIST

HOLLAND IS A GRAPHIC DESIGNER AND CARTOONIST IN WILMINGTON, NC. WHEN NOT COMPLETING A PROJECT, SHE CONTEMPLATES ART'S NAVEL ON INSTAGRAM [@THEGORGONTRANSPLANT](https://www.instagram.com/thegorgontransplant)"



P. 13 NU STAR COFFEE

MIKE GREELEY WRITER/ARTIST

GREELEY HAS SHOWN HIS WORK IN GALLERIES IN NYC, JERSEY CITY AND CHARLOTTE. ART WAS ORIGINALLY A PSYCHOLOGICAL RELEASE WHILE WORKING AS A COUNSELOR WITH SCHIZOPHRENIC AND DEVELOPMENTALLY/ BEHAVIORALLY DISABLED POPULATIONS. SEE MORE AT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PROFILE.PHP?ID=100011407223687 OR EMAIL GREELEYM1117@GMAIL.COM.



P. 18 **WEARING A MASK**

ANI TODD WRITER/ARTIST

CHARLOTTE ARTIST TODD SPECIALIZES IN 2-DIMENSIONAL WORKS IN PEN, PENCIL, OIL AND CHALK PASTEL. A STORYTELLER BY NATURE, SHE WROTE AND ILLUSTRATED HER OWN COMICS STARTING IN ELEMENTARY THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL. HER WEBCOMIC "TALES FROM A SKETCHY ARTIST," CREATED IN 2018, ILLUSTRATES THE HUMOROUS ENCOUNTERS FOUND IN HER DAILY LIFE'S JOURNEY. SEE MORE OF HER ART AT TALESFROMASKETCHYARTIST.COM



P. 20 **TANDEM MASKS**

JONATHAN ROSENBAUM WRITER/ARTIST

MAJANATION IS THE BRAINCHILD OF ROSENBAUM. IT IS A GATHERING OF IDEAS AND ILLUSTRATIONS UNDER ONE ODD UMBRELLA. ROSENBAUM WAS BORN AT AN EARLY AGE AND TOOK TO DRAWING SOON AFTER. AT THE AGE OF FOUR, WHEN ASKED BY HIS MOTHER WHAT HE WANTED TO BE, HE SAID, "EITHER AN ARTIST OR AN ELEPHANT." THE ELEPHANT THING DIDN'T PAN OUT, SO AN ARTIST IT WAS. YOU CAN VISIT MAJANATION AT MAJANATION.COM.



P. 22 **TRUMP TRANSLATOR**

STEVE SMITH WRITER/ARTIST

SMITH IS A GREAT CARTOONIST AND A HELLUVA FUNNY GUY.



P. 24 **I FEEL YOUR PAIN**

HARRIET RUSSELL WRITER

RUSSELL IS A CREATOR OF MANY TALENTS INCLUDING POETRY. SHE IS ORIGINALLY FROM LIBERIA AND COMES TO CHARLOTTE VIA LONG ISLAND AND PHILADELPHIA. SHE IS A PERSONAL TRAINER, LIFE COACH AND HEALTH COACH. LEARN MORE AT BOOMOLISTIC.COM.

GREG RUSSELL WRITER/ARTIST



P. 25 **LEARN TO LIVE TOGETHER**

MARGARET SLATE WRITER/ARTIST

SLATE CLAIMS TO BE JUST A DOODLER WITH A DREAM. SHE CREATED THIS PIECE IN LESS THAN 25 MINUTES OUT OF LOVE THAT TURNED INTO PURE ANGER. SHE HAS A DREAM THAT WE NO LONGER HAVE TO CONVINCE OTHERS TO WAKE UP. MARGARETASLATE@GMAIL.COM



P. 26 **THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN SAID TO ME IN THE WORKPLACE**

SARAH ALLEN REED WRITER/ARTIST

BORN WITH A DECIDEDLY DIFFERENT NAME AND ASSIGNED GENDER NEAR SAINT LOUIS, MO, REED PICKED UP A PEN AT THE AGE OF EIGHT AND DREW HER FIRST COMIC BOOK. HER WORK DEALS WITH LOSS, TRANS AND QUEER ISSUES, HER OWN BATTLES WITH MENTAL ILLNESS AND HOMELESSNESS, AND THE PSYCHOLOGY OF TRAUMA AND RELIGION. SHE CURRENTLY RESIDES SOMEWHERE IN COLORADO; ALTHOUGH, AS WITH EVERYTHING ELSE IN LIFE, THIS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. VIST HER AT SARAHALLENREED.COM

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